Petition No. 558
Stamford, Connecticut
Omnipoint Facilities Network 2, L.L.C. (VoiceStream)
Staff Report
May 21, 2002

On May 14, 2002, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) members Brian O'Neill and Philip T. Ashton and Council staff Paul Aresta met VoiceStream representatives Stephen Humes, Kurt Sheathelm, Robert Gaudet, and Haider Syed for a field review of this petition in the Town of Stamford, Connecticut. VoiceStream is petitioning the Council for a determination that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) would be required for modifications to an existing monopole tower facility located behind 5 High Ridge Park in Stamford. The Council issued a Certificate for this facility in Docket 45 on September 14, 1984.

VoiceStream proposes to install an eleven-foot six inch by eight-inch diameter steel support pipe at the top of the existing 152-foot ten inch monopole tower and three antennas within an approximately 16-inch diameter accelerator configuration. VoiceStream's proposed antennas would have a centerline height of 161 feet above ground level (AGL), and extend to a height of 164-feet four inches AGL. VoiceStream would also install as many as three Nortel S8000 equipment cabinets, each measuring approximately 53 inches tall by 60 inches long by 24 inches wide, and as many as two booster cabinets, each measuring approximately 24 inches long by 24 inches wide by 60 inches tall, on an existing 12-foot by 10-foot concrete pad at the base of the existing tower. Each equipment cabinet would contain radio equipment and one back-up power battery system. There would be no changes to the facility compound or access road.

The purpose of the proposed modification would be to provide wireless services to coverage gaps along portions of Routes 15 and 137, and areas of central Stamford and southern portions of New Canaan.

The existing telecommunications facility is located approximately 400 feet from the nearest building, the High Ridge Park office complex, and approximately 600 feet southeast of the nearest residential structure located on Eastover Road. The predicted cumulative worst-case radio frequency power density at the base of the tower would be approximately 25 percent of the ANSI standard for maximum permissible exposure for uncontrolled environments.

VoiceStream contends that there would be no increase in noise at the facility; that the proposed equipment cabinets would be obscured from nearby land uses; that the proposed modification would avoid the construction of a new telecommunications tower; and that the proposed modifications would not damage existing scenic, historical or recreational values, nor would they result in a substantial adverse environmental effect.